

NOTES ON THE GENUS *COXIELLA*.

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THIS genus was founded by the writer<sup>1</sup> for the reception of certain brackish or salt-water mollusca occurring in the west and south of Australia. At the time I was under the impression that the two forms, hitherto usually known as *Blanfordia striatula*, Menke, and *B. pyrhostoma*, Cox, constituted a single variable species. The study of additional specimens, however, has induced me to alter that opinion, and it now seems advisable to keep them separate. At the same time I would point out that there appears to have been a mistake in the identification of the shell described by Menke from west Australia, the south Australian form having been supposed to represent that species. Three species of *Coziella* are now known.

1. *COXIELLA STRIATULA* (Menke).

*Truncatella striatula*, Menke: Moll. Nov. Holland, p. 9; Küster, Conch. Cab., p. 14, pl. ii, figs. 32, 33 probably.

*Blanfordia pyrhostoma*, Cox: Mon. Austr. Land-Shells, p. 95, pl. xv, figs. 14, 14a.

*Hab.*—"Ad litus occidentale sabulosum" (Menke); Sharks Bay (Cox); Cossacks, and from a dry salt-pan, twenty miles north-east of Esperance Bay, W. Australia (B. H. Woodward: coll. Brit. Mus.).

This I believe to be the true *Truncatella striatula*, Menke, for the following reasons. In the first place it occurs only in western Australia, the locality assigned by Menke. Secondly, the colour ("pallide carnea") is more applicable to the west coast than to the southern shell. The latter is pale brownish or "dull olivaceous," as described by Cox. On the contrary, specimens from the west coast, of the size described by Menke, are often of a pretty reddish or fleshy tint, others, generally the larger and more adult specimens, being dull white. The latter may be referred to by Menke in his note: "In emortuis tritisque specimenibus color et striæ evanescent et testa decolor et glabra apparet."

It might be urged that Menke would not have overlooked the bright red aperture in his description. In his specimens which were "pallide carnea," and possibly more or less faded, this characteristic may not have been so striking as in fresh examples. However this may be, it seems to me, that the identification must be determined by the locality, since Menke's description applies fairly well to both forms.

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. Malac. Soc., vol. i, p. 98.

Although Menke in his work has assigned to west Australia other species of Mollusca which occur on the south coast, this is hardly a sufficient reason for concluding that he has done so in the present instance.

The specimens seen and figured by Küster were from the collection of Dr. Pfeiffer, who very likely obtained them from Menke himself; and three examples in the Cuming Collection, which belong to this west coast form, are labelled, in Pfeiffer's handwriting, "*Trunc. striatula*, Menke." It is not at all improbable that Cuming received these direct from Pfeiffer, and that they also form part of the original Menkean series.

Young shells, consisting of about six whorls, are of a rich brown colour, with the exception of the two apical volutions, which are pellucid white.

### 2. COXIELLA CONFUSA, nom. nov.

*Blanfordia striatula* (Menke): Angas, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1863, p. 523 (non Menke).

*Pomatiopsis striatula* (Menke): Adcock, Hand-List Moll. S. Australia, p. 7 (non Menke).

*Blanfordia striatula* (Menke): Cox, Mon. Austr. Land-Shells, p. 95, pl. xv, figs. 13-13b (non Menke).

*Hab.*—Adelaide, South Australia (Cox); salt lakes, Yorke's Peninsula (coll. Sykes); salt-water lake, Port Phillip and Sandridge, Hobson's Bay, Victoria (Brit. Mus.); Lake Corangmite, Geelong (coll. Sykes).

This species is less elongate than *C. striatula*, and differs also in colour and the slightly more convex whorls. The aperture is never so brightly coloured as in the west coast species, which at times attains dimensions never reached by the present form. The peristome is generally not so white, and usually more pronouncedly continuous, in some specimens being almost, and in others quite, free from the body-whorl.

### 3. COXIELLA GILESI (Angas).

*Paludinella Gilesi*, Angas: Proc. Zool. Soc., 1877, p. 170, pl. xxvi, fig. 2.

*Blandfordia* [sic] *Stirlingi*, Tate: Trans. R. Soc. South Australia, 1894, vol. xviii, p. 196.

*Blandfordia* [sic] *Gilesii*, Tate: op. cit., vol. xxi (1897), p. 42.

*Hab.*—Shores of Lake Eyre, South Australia (Angas); Lake Callabonna, South Australia (Tate). Var. *mammillata*: on the shore of a dry salt lake near Nannine, Murchison Goldfield, W. Australia; also Lake Callabonna (Tate).

The operculum is of concentric growth, as in *C. confusa*, not "paucispiral" as described by Angas. It is thin, horny, deeply concave, and marked with fine lines of increment.